REMARKS

The claims have been amended to more clearly define the invention as disclosed in the written description. In particular, claim 4 has been made dependent on claim 3. In addition, claim 6 has been amended for clarity.

Applicants believe that the above changes answer the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. 112, paragraph 2, rejection of claim 6, and respectfully request withdrawal thereof.

The Examiner has acknowledged Applicants' claim for foreign priority based on EPA 99292926.3, filed June 24, 1999, and EPA 00201142.7, filed March 30, 2000, but states that Applicants have not filed the certified copies thereof.

Applicants believe that the Examiner is mistaken. While Applicants have not retained complete copies of these priority documents, enclosed herewith are the 2-page "Certificates" identifying the priority documents which were filed with the subject application. Also enclosed herewith is a copy of Applicants' postcard receipt clearly indicating the 2 priority documents and bearing the USPTO stamp indicating receipt thereof.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that the receipt of the priority documents be acknowledged.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 8, 10, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,939,685 to Feintuch. The Examiner has further rejected claims 1-

14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,987,143 to Okuno et al.

The Feintuch patent discloses a normalized frequency domain LMS adaptive filter in which an input signal is applied to a frequency domain adaptive filter including a fast Fourier transform device 10 having outputs supplied to respective complex adaptive weighting circuits/filters 20. The adaptive weighting circuit/filter 20 includes a weighting filter portion 20A and a feedback coefficient circuit 50A for setting the filter coefficients for the weighting filter portion 20A.

The Okuno et al. patent discloses a method and apparatus for erasing acoustic echo in which an input signal (1 applied to the microphone on the speaker A side in Fig. 1) is applied to a digital signal processor 3 including an adaptive filter 31. As stated in Okuno et al. "The adaptive filter 31 receives, as an input, a voice signal from the speaker A side, i.e., the voice signal x1 received at the speaker B side and supplies a filter output signal to the differential circuit 32." (col. 3, lines 40-43).

According to *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987) "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference."

The subject invention, as claimed in claim 1, is "An adaptive filter comprising at least two inputs for receiving at least two signals". From this opening claim element, the subject invention is distinguished over both Feintuch and Okuno et al., which disclose adaptive filters with a single input.

Further, claim 1 states "means for reducing the effect of correlation **between the input signals** on the coefficient updates" (emphasis added). Since both Feintuch and Okuno et al. only disclose a single input, then there cannot be any correlation **between the input signals**, for which the means reduces the effects on the coefficient updates.

In view of the above, Applicants believe that the subject invention, as claimed, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the prior art, and as such, is patentable thereover.

Applicants believe that this application, containing claims 1-14, is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

by _____

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